



April 15, 2018

Dear Marshall Primary School Parents,

What a wonderful time to be at Marshall Primary School! We have so many positive changes to be excited about and so many successes to celebrate. We would like to take this time to celebrate these areas of progress that our school and School Improvement Council have made in the goals and objectives of our School Renewal Plan.

This year we added an additional Primary Montessori class and Lower Elementary Montessori class at Marshall Primary. These additions have strengthened our program, and provided more students with an opportunity to engage in personalized learning. We were also very fortunate to add a part-time school counselor, which we share with Wright Elementary School. This addition has enabled us to serve more small groups and target students who need specific interventions.

In Kindergarten, we began a new phonics program called Sound Sensible. This addition has provided our students a strong foundation for future success. To further support our students as readers, we have also implemented the SPIRE program for those who would benefit from this research-based reading intervention model. We were also very fortunate to add a Chromebook lab for our students this year, which allowed each class more time to spend on i-Ready. Our second grade classrooms also received 5 Chromebooks, which students have been able to use for research and typing skills.

In looking at our assessment data, our Kindergarten – Second grade has shown substantial improvement from Fall to Spring on our Reading and Math i-Ready assessments, as well as their Fountas and Pinnell Benchmark reading assessment. To aide in this, we began a daily Push-Up time for our students in first and second grade each morning. This 30-minute time gives our students an opportunity to work in small groups at their current reading and math level. Our Pre-Kindergarten students have also shown tremendous growth on both their DIAL-4 (Developmental Indicators for the Assessment of Learning) screening and PALS (Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening) assessment. The hard work displayed by our teachers, staff and students this year has truly paid off, and we are so proud of them!

In addition to our academic success, our school continues to make our students' social development a top priority. With the continued implementation of our *Responsive Classroom* program, we have been intentionally focusing on relationship building and a whole-child approach. We continued our TEAM approach to our PBIS system this year. Our weekly meetings are focused on building collaboration across grade levels and have included games

and weekly greetings to engage all students. Each month we took time to celebrate students through our MPS Hall of Fame and MPS Birthday Club.

We have also seen improvements in other areas related to our school climate. The 2016-2017 school year did see a slight increase in student attendance, and we are confident that new measures put in place will help us show continued improvement for the 2017-2018 school year. In addition, parent involvement specifically during our STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, ART and Math) Night was an opportunity for parents to come and work with their child on reading and math strategies, using a hands-on approach. Literacy Day gave an opportunity for parents to come in the school, learn more about working with their child at home, and supplied free books and games for parents to use at home. To combat summer reading loss, we are excited to hold a free book fair for our students before the end of the year so that every child has ten new books to take home and read with their family.

We are excited about the 2018-2019 school year at Marshall Primary School. We will continue to refine our PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention Supports) approach to school discipline and implement more common standards-based assessments throughout each grade level.

Thank you for your continued support as we work hard to improve, and provide your child with a world-class education that builds their foundation for the future as a 21st Century Graduate ready for college or career.

Sincerely,

Jenifer B. Fleming, Principal

Norma Hughes-Smith, SIC Chairperson